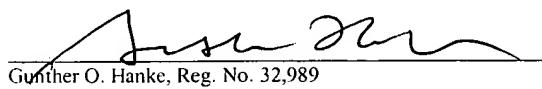




CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 23, 2004.


Gunther O. Hanke, Reg. No. 32,989

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/825,673
Applicant : Esch et al.
Filed : April 3, 2001
Art Unit : 3763
Examiner : Kevin Sirmons

Docket No.: : CARDE.57307
Customer No. : 27629

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CORRECTED AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Dear-Sir:

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action of September 8, 2003, the response for which is due December 8, 2003.

Amendment to the claims begins on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 8.